



NEWS RELEASE

Office of the
United States Attorney
for the
District of Nebraska
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December 18, 2009

United States Attorney Deborah Gilg, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives and the Omaha Police Department announce the following information for the attention of the media:

Event Triggering this Release:

Lester Ferris, 34, was sentenced following his conviction for being a felon in possession of a firearm. The Honorable Lyle E. Strom, Senior Judge for the United States District Court, sentenced Ferris to the custody of the United States Bureau of Prisons for 57 months. After his release from prison, Ferris will begin a two-year-term of supervised release.

Officers of the Omaha Police Department responded to an armed robbery home invasion on March 26, 2009. During the course of the investigation, officers learned that the shotgun used during the robbery was provided by Robert Taylor. Officers set up surveillance on Taylor's residence as they applied for a search warrant. During surveillance, officers observed Ferris pull up to Taylor's apartment. Taylor was observed making two trips from the residence to Ferris's van. On each trip, he appeared to be carrying multiple long arms. Ferris and Taylor were stopped by police as they began to drive away. Officers recovered a total of eight shotguns and rifles. Ferris had a prior felony conviction for possession of a destructive device.

Taylor was also charged in connection with this incident. He has been convicted and is awaiting sentencing.

Name of Defendant: Lester Ferris

AKA:

Age: 34

City of residence: Omaha

Crime(s) Charged and Potential Penalty (A CHARGE is merely an accusation and every defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty): Felon in possession of a firearm. Maximum penalty 0-10 years imprisonment; \$250,000.00 fine, both such imprisonment and fine; three years

supervised release; \$100 special assessment.

Specific Location of Alleged Crime: Omaha

Location of Arrest: Omaha

Alleged Dollar Loss/Type and Quantity of Drug:

Others Charged in Same Scheme: Robert Taylor

Relevant Dates:

Date of Alleged Crime: On or about March 26, 2009.

Federal Arrest Date: June 12, 2009

Date Complaint Issued:

Indictment Returned Date: May 21, 2009

Initial Appearance Date: June 12, 2009

Plea or Trial and Date(s): Pled on September 30, 2009

Sentencing Date: December 18, 2009

Next Court Hearing Type and Date: N/A

Assigned Magistrate Judge: The Honorable F. A. Gossett, III

Held without Bond, or Released from Custody: Held

In Continuous Custody Since: March 27, 2009 on state related charges; in federal custody since June 12, 2009

Assigned District Court Judge: The Honorable Lyle E. Strom

Initials of Assigned AUSA/Preparer of THIS Release: MPN